(b) to (d) Every year a large number of pilgrims, kanwarias and Mountaineers visit Gangotri and near by areas. From time to time the local administration and NGO's conduct cleanliness drives to collect the garbage left behind by them. A 50 kg/hr capacity incinerator was installed at Gangotri in June, 1996. The garbage collected is incinerated in the incinerator.

Government of India has also supported the Gangotri Conservation project run by Himalayan Environment Trust. Financial assistance of Rs. 15 lakhs and Rs. 6.3 lakh was provided to the trust in the year 1994 and 1997 respectively for various works at Gangotri.

National River Conservation Plan

2115. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the criteria of selection of rivers under the National River Conservation Plan;

(b) what were the steps taken by Government for cleaning of rivers under this plan so far;

(c) whether Government propose to include some more rivers and towns under this plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what is the improvement made so far in the water quality of the rivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) Action Plans for different river under National River Conservation Plan have been drawn up on the basis of surveys conducted by Central Pollution Control Board and State Pollution Control Boards.

(b) The following pollution abatement works have been undertaken by various implementing agencies of the State Government for cleaning of rivers.

- Interception and diversion works to capture the raw sewage flowing into the river through open drains.

- Sewage treatment plants for treating the diverted sewage.
- Low cost sanitation works to prevent open defecation on river banks.
- Electric crematoria and improved wood crematoria to conserve the use of wood and to prevent throwing of unburnt dead bodies into the river.
- Improvement of bathing ghats to allow the use of rivers for bathing by people.

(c) and (d) Inclusion of more rivers and towns under National River Conservation Plan will depend on the pollution status of the water body and the availability of funds in the Plan.

(e) On completion of Ganga Action Plan Phase-I, the water quality o river Ganga has shown improvement over the pre-Ganga Action Plan period water quality. It is observed that in 1986, the bio-chemical oxygen demand (BOD) which is an indicator of pollution of river water quality was ranging from 5.5 to 15.5 mg/l (as against a standard of less than 3 mg/l) in the critical stretch of Ganga from Kannauj to Varanasi. As against this, the values of BOD in 2002 in the stretch of Kannauj to Kanpur and Allahabad to Varanasi is (1.20 to 4.90 mg/l) and (2.50 to 8 mg/l) respectively. Similarly, dissolved oxygen (DO) levels which indicate the health of the river, were in the range of 5.9 to 6.6. mg/l (as against a standard of greater than 5 mg/l) in 1986 in the Allahabad—Varanasi stretch and in 2002 the range improved to 7.5 to 13.0 mg/l.

Vision Statement on the problems related on Environmental Health

2116. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently the Ministry have issued a Vision Statement on the problems related to environmental health and how to deal with the adverse effects of increasing hazardous and bio-medical wastes, radiation, climate change etc.;

(b) if so, the details there of and/or time bound plan drawn up, if any, to check the adverse effects of increasing hazard to environmental health; and